

AmeriCorps NCCC

The Camden City Garden Club inspires and educates people of all ages by providing opportunities to improve their quality of life, health, and community through horticulture. The Club is a center to foster learning and community, while being a leading resource enabling community access to healthy, high quality, safe, and affordable food. AmeriCorps NCCC members tended seven existing gardens and started six additional gardens in Camden. In the process, members gained an understanding of how to build and nurture gardens and helped create additional community recreational and educational spaces.

AmeriCorps VISTA

Based in Jersey City, Rising Tide Capital, Inc. provides support to women, minorities, immigrants, and other populations to start and grow successful businesses by investing in the entrepreneurial spirit that exists in distressed communities. In the first two years, AmeriCorps VISTA members have helped Rising Tide increase the number of clients served by 77 percent and have supported fundraising efforts leading to a 96 percent increase in revenue. Furthermore, the JPMorgan Chase Foundation committed \$150,000 to back the Start Something Challenge, a statewide initiative led by Rising Tide Capital through the support of VISTA. VISTAs have helped to develop, evaluate, recruit, and fundraise for this unique jobs initiative that will recruit and support entrepreneurs to start and grow businesses in marginalized communities across New Jersey.

Senior Corps

Jefferson Park Ministries is a small community based organization that serves economically vulnerable families and young people by providing a variety of services in Elizabeth. The Elizabeth school district was classified as a District In Need of Improvement under No Child Left Behind. Jefferson Park Ministries' Foster Grandparent Program has made an impact on elementary children with exceptional or special needs. An opportunity not readily available within the school district otherwise, Foster Grandparents engage students one-on-one focusing on reading and math skills. Last year, 95 percent of students served demonstrated an improvement in reading participation and math skills.

Social Innovation Fund

The U.S. Soccer Foundation is supporting the expansion and replication of Soccer for Success, a no-cost, after-school, sports-based youth development program whose goal is to improve health by arresting and reducing obesity through physical activity and nutrition education. In New Jersey, they have two nonprofit subgrantees implementing the program: Boys & Girls Club of Camden County and Boys & Girls Club of Trenton and Mercer County. These subgrantees receive a total of \$245,000 annually which they match dollar-for-dollar with nonfederal fund, and together they will provide 1,800 youth with physical activity, nutrition education, mentorship, and family engagement opportunities.